

Amendments to the Claims:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

1. (Original) A process for preparing organopolysiloxane compositions (A) having a viscosity measured at 25°C of at least 500 Pa·s., comprising mixing and kneading organopolysiloxanes (O) and fillers (F) in a first process stage in a kneading cascade having at least two kneading chambers which are arranged in series adjacent one another, each containing two kneading tools having parallel axes and capable of being driven in co-rotating or counter-rotating directions, said chambers connected to one another by means of openings through which material passes in a direction transverse to the axes of the kneading tools, at least the first kneading chamber having a feed opening and the last kneading chamber having a discharge opening, to provide a raw organopolysiloxane mixture, and, in a second process stage, kneading and degassing the raw mixture in a reciprocating kneader.

2. (Original) The process of claim 1, wherein the kneading cascade comprises from 3 to 10 kneading chambers.

3. (Original) The process of claim 1, wherein the kneading tools of the kneading cascade comprise one or more of kneading blades, rollers, or polygonal plates.

4. (Original) The process of claim 2, wherein the kneading tools of the kneading cascade comprise one or more of kneading blades, rollers, or polygonal plates.

5. (Original) The process of claim 1, wherein the temperature of the mixture along the reciprocating kneader is regulated by means of orifice plates whose flow-reducing action can be adjusted from the outside without opening the kneader.

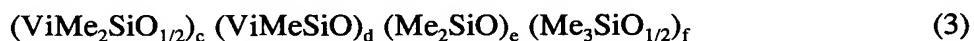
6. (Original) The process of claim 2, wherein the temperature of the mixture along the reciprocating kneader is regulated by means of orifice plates whose flow-reducing action can be adjusted from the outside without opening the kneader.

7. (Original) The process of claim 3, wherein the temperature of the mixture along the reciprocating kneader is regulated by means of orifice plates whose flow-reducing action can be adjusted from the outside without opening the kneader.

8. (Original) The process of claim 1, wherein the filler content of the organopolysiloxane compositions (A) is from 5 to 80% by weight.

9. (Original) The process of claim 1, wherein silicas having a specific surface area determined by the BET method of at least 50 m²/g are used as fillers (F).

10. (Original) The process of claim 1, wherein polydimethylsiloxanes of the formula (3)



where Vi is a vinyl radical and Me is a methyl radical, and the non-negative integers c, d, e and f obey the following relationships: $c+d \geq 1$, $c+f = 2$, $1000 < (d+e) < 9000$, and $0 < (d+1) / (d+e) < 1$, are used as organopolysiloxanes (O).

11. (Original) The process of claim 1, wherein polydimethylsiloxanes of the formula (3)



where V_i is a vinyl radical and Me is a methyl radical, and the non-negative integers c, d, e and f obey the following relationships: $c+d \geq 1$, $c+f = 2$, $3000 < (d+e) < 7000$, and $0 < (d+1) / (d+e) < 0.1$, are used as organopolysiloxanes (O).

12. (Original) The process of claim 1, wherein organopolysiloxanes having a viscosity measured at 25°C of from 10 to 200 mPa·s are added as structure improvers (S).

13. (New) The process of claim 1, wherein said filler is a prehydrophobicized filler.

14. (New) The process of claim 1, wherein in both said kneading cascade and said reciprocating kneader, the composition is maintained at a temperature of 280°C or less.

15. (New) The process of claim 1, wherein organopolysiloxane, untreated filler and hydrophobicizing agent are added to chamber(s) of the kneading cascade.

16. (New) The process of claim 1, wherein organopolysiloxane untreated filler, and structure improver are added to chamber(s) of the kneading cascade.

17. (New) The process of claim 16, wherein no structure improver is added to a last chamber of the kneading cascade.